

## Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03

CIEP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

SAJ-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /175 W

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R 281735Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7394

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, GR, PFOR

SUBJECT: EC PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT BERKHOUWER'S VISIT TO ATHENS

REF: A. ATHENS 5845 B. ATHENS 5993 C. ATHENS 6140 D. EC BRUSSELS 6289

E. STATE 188704 F. BONN 13580

1. SUMMARY: BERKHOUWER GOT A WARM, ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME  
BY THE GREEKS, WHO SEEK BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL BENEFITS

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FROM EARLY RE-ASSOCIATION WITH EC. FULL EC MEMBERSHIP IS

STILL A LONG RANGE GREEK GOAL. END SUMMARY.

2. A MISSION OFFICER DISCUSSED BERKHOUWER'S AUGUST 18-23 VISIT WITH FLORUS WIJSENBEK, BERKHOUWER'S CHEF DE CABINET AND THE ONLY PERSON ACCOMPANYING BERKHOUWER. WIJSENBEK ATTENDED ALL THE MEETINGS. ACCORDING TO WIJSENBEK, BERKHOUWER'S RECEPTION IN ATHENS WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL, BORDERING ON EUPHORIC. BERKHOUWER WAS RECEIVED TWICE BY CARAMANLIS AND MAVROS. HE ALSO SAW FINANCE MINISTER PEZMAZOGLOU AND MINISTER OF COORDINATION ZOLOTAS PLUS A NUMBER OF "LESSER" MINISTERS. WIJSENBEK HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE GREEKS BELIEVED THAT ONCE THEY WERE "ACCEPTED" BY THE NINE, MOST OF THEIR PROBLEMS WERE OVER. WIJSENBEK SAID BERKHOUWER TRIED, ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFULLY, TO PUT THE BRAKES ON THEIR ENTHUSIASM. WIJSENBEK SAID THE GREEKS HAD TWO PRIMARY OBJECTIVES. THE FIRST WAS PURELY ECONOMIC; THEY WANT AND EXPECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE EC. THE SECOND, WHILE MORE SUBTLE, HE BELIEVED WAS UPPERMOST IN THEIR MINDS: THEY WANT POLITICAL ACCEPTANCE AND "LEGITIMACY." THIS, HE SAID, WAS ONE OF THE REASONS THEY APPROACHED THE EC THROUGH THE PARLIAMENT. IT WAS THE PARLIAMENT WHICH, AMONG COMMUNITY BODIES, HAD BEEN MOST VOCIFEROUS IN ITS CRITICISM OF THE COLONELS SINCE 1967. THE NEW REGIME, WHICH WIJSENBEK CHARACTERIZED AS "UPTIGHT ABOUT DEMOCRACY," WANTED TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO ESTABLISH A RECORD OF PROCEEDING "DEMOCRATICALLY," HENCE ITS WOOLING OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

3. WIJSENBEK WAS VAGUE ABOUT ANY PROSPECTIVE TIMETABLE FOR FUTURE MOVES. HE NOTED THAT BERKHOUWER HAD SAID THAT ASSOCIATION WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT GREEK ELECTIONS. WHILE WIJSENBEK SAID CARAMANLIS BELIEVES HIMSELF TO BE IN A STRONG POSITION AND IS CONFIDENT ABOUT THE RESULTS OF ANY ELECTIONS AND ANXIOUS TO HAVE THEM SOON, WIJSENBEK THOUGHT THEY WERE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS OFF. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT PRELIMINARY TALKS COULD BE HELD ALMOST AT ONCE AND HE CONFIRMED THAT MAVROS WAS SCHEDULED TO SEE EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI IN BRUSSELS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER (ORTOLI'S CABINET TELLS US THE 11TH OR 12TH IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED). WIJSENBEK SAID THE GREEKS STILL HOPE FOR FULL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EC MEMBERSHIP, AND WOULD LIKE TO ADVANCE THE 1984 DATE BUT ARE "REALISTIC" ABOUT STRUCTURAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

4. ACCORDING TO WIJSENBEK, BERKHOUWER MET WITH A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE 1967 GREEK PARLIAMENT AND INDICATED TO THEM THAT INFORMAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THEM AND MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WERE POSSIBLE IN AD HOC WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.

5. WIJSENBECK CONFIRMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE PEOPLE WERE HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. ALTHOUGH CARAMANLIS AND MAVROS HAD BEEN VAGUE ON THIS POINT, THEY INDICATED TO BERKHOUWER THERE WAS SOMETHING "NOT QUITE ORTHODOX" ABOUT THE U.S. ROLE IN CYPRUS. THEY HAD ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT THE SECRETARY HAD PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE RECENTLY. WIJSENBECK HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS A RATHER APOLOGISTIC NOTE TO THE CRITICISM OF THE U.S. AND THAT THE GREEK ATTITUDE STEMMED SOMEWHAT FROM THE NEED TO FIND A SCAPEGOAT. HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO INDICATE THAT THE PARLIAMENT AND THE COMMUNITY IN GENERAL WAS IN NO WAY TRYING TO CAPITALIZE ON ANTI-AMERICANISM IN GREECE. RATHER, THE EC WAS SIMPLY ACTING ON A GREEK INITIATIVE AND, AS INDICATED IN REFTEL C, TRYING TO PREVENT GREECE'S SLIPPING TOWARDS NEUTRALISM.

6. IN THIS CONNECTION, WIJSENBECK PERSONNALLY WAS IMPRESSED BY THE WESTERN ORIENTATION OF ALL FACETS OF THE GREEK BODY POLITIC WITH WHOM BERKHOUWER AND HE HAD MET. HE DID NOT THINK THERE WAS MUCH CHANCE THAT THE NEW LEADERSHIP WOULD EXHIBIT NEUTRALIST TENDANCIES. HE SAID EVEN SUCH POLITICAL FIGURES AS ELIAS ELIOU, THE LEADER OF THE COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATION, WERE STRONGLY ANTI-EASTERN EUROPE AND RECOGNIZED THE IMPORTANCE TO GREECE OF STRONG WESTERN TIES. ELIAS ELIOU COMPARED THE GREEK COMMUNISTS TO THE ITALIAN. GREENWALD

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